



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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North Carolina Is Wasting The Talents Of Its Most Promising School Children

Mecklenburg's Rep. John P. Kennedy Jr. has tunneled straight to the heart of one of the sorest subjects in contemporary education: The shameful neglect of the gifted child in North Carolina's public schools.

"One of the boasts of our democracy is that we treat people as individuals and that we encourage each person to develop his talents to their fullest capacity," he said last week. "But too often today, as we struggle to cope with huge increases in our school population, the individual student is largely forgotten and forced to fit into the standard pattern. Not only is the individual student the loser, but all society and indeed the whole western world is the poorer."

Determined to halt this needless waste of Tar Heel talent, the Mecklenburg legislator has asked the General Assembly to create a special commission to study the public school education of exceptionally talented children and recommend appropriate remedies in 1961.

It is a courageous attempt to focus public attention on the most undiscussed, misunderstood and avoided issue currently plaguing public education.

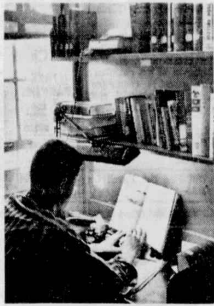
It is one of the peculiarities of the age that "mass education" in its most insipid form has become a democratic dogma. Too many Tar Heels—too many Americans, for that matter—have been led to believe that in a democracy we must somehow level down to the lowest common denominator of our students.

As a few perceptive souls have timidly suggested, there is no compulsion in a democracy to do only "mass education." There is a task for "mass education," of course. But there is also a task for the teaching of the talented and the training of the superior to be leaders.

A Tar Heel youngster has every right to develop whatever potential there is in him. But it's time the state faced the fact that many students have a limited potential. Others have a potential that stretches very far—meaning that some of the slowest in developing may ultimately develop better in the long run. None of these students should be neglected. All should be given an opportunity to develop their talents to the fullest.

There are a few happy exceptions, but generally this is impossible in North Carolina public education today. For instance, Rep. Kennedy points out that every Tar Heel school child—whether his IQ is 75 or 150—studies the same textbook in world history, the same textbook in American history and the same textbook in most other subjects. This may be good enough for the "average" child. But what about the exceptionally gifted child?

We are simply wasting a major portion of North Carolina's most precious natural resource—the brainpower of the state's most talented children—by our failure to make special provision in all of our schools for these boys and girls. It is ridiculous in the extreme to



Gifted Students Deserve Special Attention

maintain the myth that it is somehow undemocratic to give special attention to the gifted by grouping them for the purposes of instruction with others of similar gifts and by providing them with superior instructional tools.

Dr. James B. Conant, a great American educator who has also served as ambassador to Germany, has recognized the problem and the necessity for its solution. "Ideas are a dime a dozen," he wrote recently. "What is usually lacking is someone who can take an idea and give it concrete form. I believe it is possible for our schools to do far more for our children with special gifts and talents than at present, without jeopardizing our basic educational philosophy. . . . We need not retreat one step from our goal of providing education for all. . . ."

John Hersey, the author, has been equally concerned. Here are his reasons: "Because I love the world I live in and have high hopes for its coming years, and because I have read history, as anyone may, and have seen that the progress of mankind, the slow, hard progress of the unfortunate mass of mankind, has been largely made possible by a very small number of inventive, sensitive, intelligent, talented people, who have given the world the benefits of their talents. I mean scientists, philosophers, explorers, poets, composers, artists, discoverers of new ways of doing things. I am therefore interested in what our society does for its potentially talented children."

The answer is democratic education in its truest sense—education in which it is possible for each individual to develop up to the full limit of his potentials. Democracy in education means equality of opportunity—not equality of ultimate achievement. It is the fullest opportunity that North Carolina must make available to its young people.

Mecklenburg's Loss Is UNC's Gain

Twenty years with the wrong woman, with the bulldog, in a future to be avoided. Two decades in the public arena, though not to be shunned, nevertheless are probably enough for the most of mankind.

Thus, did Dr. M. B. Bethel begin his letter of resignation as city-county health officer. It was a characteristic expression of wit and wisdom from perhaps the most civilized mind in local government—but it could not dissolve the sadness that this remarkable public servant's departure will evoke.

The only compensation is the knowledge that he is being rewarded with an important post in higher education. It is a well-deserved honor.

It is needless to list his contributions to Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. They are well known. His discreet consolidation of the health services of the city and the county under one roof was his greatest single accomplishment but his tremendous worth to this community

can be measured better in more personal terms—his humanity, his urbanity and humor, his social consciousness, his broad intelligence and erudition. These qualities, together with his medical and administrative genius, made Dr. Bethel one of the prime movers of progress in modern Mecklenburg.

He will make a wonderful addition to the faculty and administration of the University of North Carolina. Such men are needed in education. Young men and women, contemplating careers in public health, ought to be exposed to the influence of such men. All the same, Mecklenburg will regret its own great loss.

Life In America

Man's quest for betterment goes on. The latest contribution to educational research is a "study" prepared by a professor of psychology on the Relationship of Playing the Pinball Game to Personality Dimensions.

amusement of a rapidly growing group of admirers. Their famous apartment at 221-B Baker street may be fictional, but it is sought out by almost many tourists today as is London bridge.

There has been no firm evidence in the accounts of his adventures or elsewhere of Holmes' death. Letters from all over the world still come addressed to Holmes. They are answered by the Abbey National Building Society, which occupies the space where Holmes and Watson were supposed to live.

We have a question for the Abbey National Building Society. Where's Holmes?

Vice-Ridden London Is A Blatantly Immoral Village

By ROBERT C. RUARK

LONDON

Although I am ordinarily an Anglophile, I have just seen a picture of the Duke of Kent wearing a bowler hat, dark glasses to hide his hangover, and a pair of brown buckskin shoes with the formal "city" uniform, while he hustled back to West Germany to defend the commonwealth with the umbrella he was carrying.

And I have just read where sally old Field Marshal Montgomery publicly ate crow on the TV for some of the bricks he dropped before and during his trip to Moscow. And I have just read where Lord Howe, whose square monicker is Curzon, was accosted 15 times by prostitutes whilst walking from his garage to his front door on the street that bears his name, and the combination makes me a touch testy.

SILLY APPEARANCE

Anybody looks silly in a derby hat, even if he has more chin and less nose and a hangover than the Duke of Kent, brown suede shoes notwithstanding, so we will leave the bowler business in the competent hands of a London columnist who is now demanding that the iron hat be omitted from the city uniform.

We can leave Marshal Monty to continue to clutter his mouth with his own feet, although this may be a seeming logistic impossibility. I must confess a disappointment that Monty wouldn't cut off responsibility for all the nasty things he had to say about our "silly" leaders, and for his utter disregard of his own country's position by scuttling off to Moscow to play unofficial, but loudly reported, footsie with the footpads.

HIS LORDSHIP

But I do feel sorry for poor Lord Howe, who said, tearfully, in the big debate over what to do with London's street-walkers, that one young lady attacked him with an umbrella



It's Tulip Time In London: Prostitution Is In Flower, Too

and knocked his hat—possibly a bowler—off when he turned her down. On other street, yes, but not on great-granddaddy's own street, Curzon, where the creme de la creme of Mayfair resides. And being accosted 15 times between garage and doorstep is not much, if your name happens to be Francis Henry Curzon.

His Lordship's plaint about vice in his own front yard came up in a big debate the other day in the House of Lords, where they are trying to decide whether or not to jail the evening ladies, who, like the pigeons of Paris and the starlings of Washington, constitute a certain civic nuisance. One of the noble Lords dug up some statistics to prove that there were 954,000 women aged 15 to 34 in the metropolitan area, and that

there are 1,800 commercial street providers.

HARLOTS GALORE

"A dreadful figure" exclaimed the Earl of Arran, making what was described as "his maiden speech." "One in 350 women in Central London is a harlot!"

The cry now is whether to keep fining them (£16.70 con-

tractors).

Who buys their wares at an hour I couldn't say, and how their fancy men can afford to buy the wares, I couldn't say, and especially at that hour.

But Lady Ravensdale had a deeper point, if you know London, which is a shockingly, blatantly immoral village. They have taken no exact figures on the purpose of prostitution, but it can safely be said that the male hustlers have chased most of the girls completely away from Piccadilly Circus. A fellow won't safe any more on either side of the street.

Who'll Be First In Line For The Race To Red China?

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

With somewhat comic overtones the great rush to be first into Communist China is on, with former Gov. Averell Har-

rison of New York on the inside track.

As a more or less avowed candidate for secretary of state in a Democratic administration Harriman apparently feels it is important to try

to explore forbidden China. He is currently touring Soviet Russia and the report here is that the Russians have told him they will help him get the required permission from Peking.

Harriman cleared the first hurdle by getting the State Department to put a stamp in his passport authorizing him to visit Communist China. Such a special stamp is required since each passport issued specifies that the bearer cannot use it for travel to the mainland of China.

With former Secretary of State Dean Acheson as his counsel, Harriman persuaded the department that he was a bona fide newspaper man employed by the North American Newspaper Alliance to write special columns—admittedly—on the former governor's salary from NANA was his only source of earned income. The word to be stressed here is "earned," since Harriman has a private fortune passed on by the railroad empire of his father, estimated at more than \$100,000,000.

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First Deputy Soviet Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan is reported to have told Harriman that while he could not intervene with Peking directly, he could suggest that a visit would be helpful. Similarly Premier Khrushchev told Adlai Stevenson when the two-time Democratic presidential candidate visited Moscow last summer that it would be a good idea for Stevenson to go to Peking and that he, Khrushchev, would help him. Stevenson at one point considered such a mission, but he has made no move to go.

Whether Khrushchev and company can help by interceding is an open question. Chinese Communist representatives in Western Europe are known to have expressed anger and indignation that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko should have gone to the funeral of John Foster Dulles. To think they are reported as saying, that as should have gone to pay homage to the man who was China's greatest enemy. The growing hostility of the Chinese toward Russian negotiation with the West and the "soft" Russian attitude can incidentally be a factor in the Geneva talks.

Other prominent Americans seeking a visa to China have studiously avoided Russian help. One of them is former

Minister of State Dean Acheson, who is currently in the State Department. Acheson, who is currently in the State Department, is currently in the State Department.

Others in the government argue that it is dangerous to have the knowledge of Americans visit the great unknown of Communist China. They believe that only in this way will the Americans be made aware of the significance of the experiment being conducted on 650,000,000 Chinese.

But whether any of the entries made to Peking is still in doubt. The answer rests with the four men who exercise almost total power over the vast land mass that is called China.

Finally, the record was changed so that Sen. Steve Young, Ohio Democrat, was made to appear the presiding officer who gave McGee his seat.

Actually, it was Nixon. But no one would be the first at the dangers of the centennial record. Nixon refused to recognize him.

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